

U.S. Occupational Outlook to 2014

Career decisions made when first entering the labor market, or at any point over a potential 30-to 50-year working life, are made in as many different ways as there are different people. One important piece of information labor economists try to provide to assist job seekers—in choosing an occupation, pursuing training and developing skills—is the demand outlook for different occupations in the near future.

Every two years the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) updates the projected openings for occupations. The latest outlook was released at the end of 2005, covering the decade 2004 through 2014. This is an attempt by national labor force economists to provide their best estimate of the demand for about 750 occupations in the coming decade.

The projected demand for occupational job opportunities is composed of the number of replacement job openings plus the new jobs created by the expanding economy. From 2004 to

2014 the BLS economists expect the economy to generate 18.9 million new jobs and an additional 35.8 million replacement job openings, bringing total job openings to 54.7 million.

For every new job opening due to economic growth there are almost two replacement jobs available. Replacement jobs are those that open up due to retirement or any other reason people leave employment.

The near-future prospect for job opportunities is estimated by projecting ongoing economic trends.



These trends can, and do, change unexpectedly because of shifts in technology, consumer preferences, trade patterns, or other unpredictable events. Therefore, projected job demand, while very useful in determining future job prospects, is uncertain as actual economic events unfold.

The demand estimates show expected job growth or decline by occupation. The best opportunities for job seekers are found in expanding industries where new and replacement job openings are relatively plentiful. Of course job-hunting success is heavily influenced by competition—how many people desire to do a particular type of work.

The best jobs not only have many openings, they also provide the income necessary to meet personal and family financial goals. The following list shows 20 occupations with the most projected openings that also have median annual earnings higher than at least half of all workers. There are different training, educational and experience requirements for the various jobs listed.

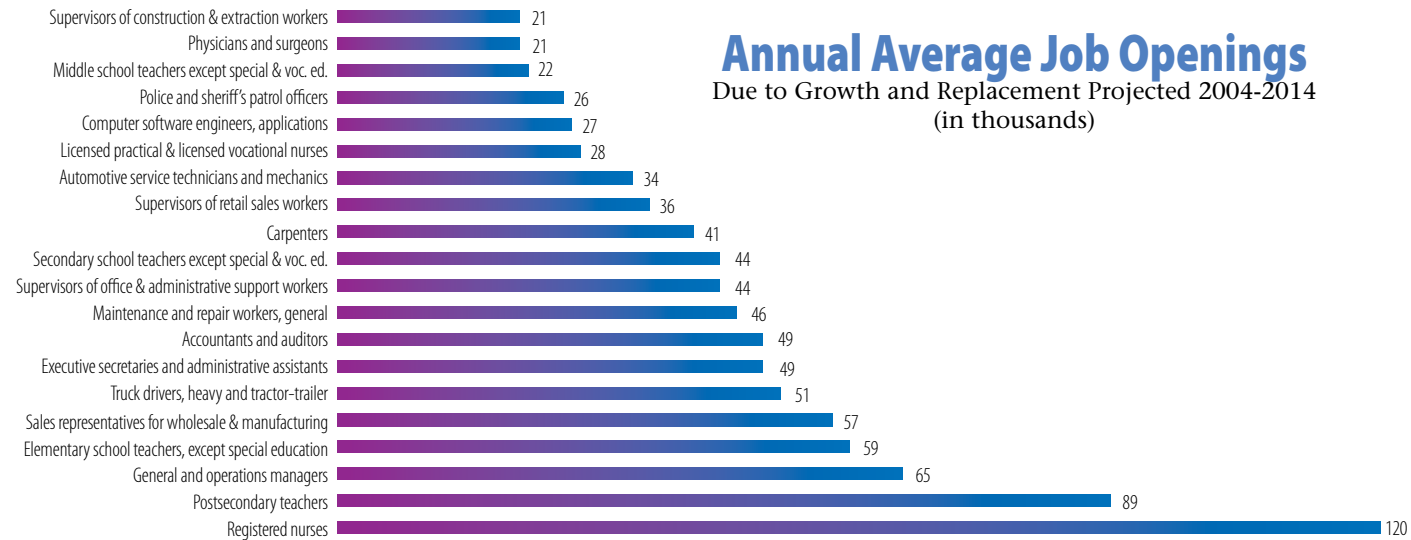
The next list shows the usual source of education and training needed to acquire entry-level skills for each of these occupations.

A detailed article and outlook for all 750 occupations is available at the following link: <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2005/11/art5abs.htm>

Other articles concerning BLS 2004 to 2014 economic projections are found at this link: www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2005/11/contents.htm

Occupation	Usual Source of Education or Training
Registered nurses	Associate Degree
Postsecondary teachers	Doctoral Degree
General and operations managers	Experience plus Degree
Elementary school teachers, except special education	Bachelor's degree
Sales representatives for wholesale & manufacturing	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Accountants and auditors	Bachelor's degree
Maintenance and repair workers, general	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Supervisors of office & administrative support workers	Related work experience
Secondary school teachers except special & voc.ed.	Bachelor's degree
Carpenters	Long-term on-the-job training
Supervisors of retail sales workers	Related work experience
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	Postsecondary vocational training
Licensed practical & licensed vocational nurses	Postsecondary vocational training
Computer software engineers, applications	Bachelor's degree
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	Long-term on-the-job training
Middle school teachers except special & voc. ed.	Bachelor's degree
Physicians and surgeons	First professional degree
Supervisors of construction & extraction workers	Related work experience

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services